

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, replace the paragraph starting at line 5 as follows:

The invention ~~was made~~ was made in part by an employee of the United States Government and may be manufactured and used by or for the Government of the United States of America for governmental purposes without the payment of any royalties thereon or therefor.

On page 8, replace the paragraph starting at line 7 as follows:

Orifice plate 18 can be sized/shaped to work with any size/shape of conduit 10. For example, as shown in FIG. 2A, orifice plate 18 can be circular for installation in a cylindrical conduit. FIG. 2B illustrates that orifice plate 18 could be rectangular for installation in a rectangular conduit. In either case, orifice plate 18 includes a peripheral mounting region 18A that is captured between flanges 14 and 16. Each orifice plate 18 also has a central circular region 18B having a radius R_c , R_c , and a balanced flow region 18C that starts at the perimeter of central circular region 18B and ends at a perimeter defined by dashed lines 18D. Perimeter 18D is commensurate with the inner boundary of conduit 10. The present invention's through-hole area-distribution (not shown in FIGs. 2A and 2B) is formed in balanced flow region 18C.

On page 8, replace the paragraph starting at line 22 as follows:

The configuration of central circular region 18B is not a limitation of the present invention. Accordingly, central circular region 18B can be solid (i.e., no holes) as illustrated in FIGs. 2A and 2B. However, central circular

region 18B can also have a single hole 19 of radius R_0 , where $R_0 \leq R_C$, formed therethrough as shown in FIG. 2C. Still further, central circular region 18B can have multiple holes (e.g., holes 19A, 19B and 19C) formed therethrough as shown in FIG. 2D.